

## § 3550.111

(2) Borrowers must immediately notify RHS of any loss or damage to insured property and collect the amount of the loss from the insurance company.

(3) RHS may require that loss payments be supervised. All repairs and replacements done by or under the direction of the borrower, or by contract, will be planned, performed, inspected, and paid for in accordance with 7 CFR part 1924, subpart A.

(4) When insurance funds remain after all repairs, replacements, and other authorized disbursements have been made, the funds will be applied in the following order:

(i) Prior liens, including delinquent property taxes.

(ii) Delinquency on the account.

(iii) Advances due for recoverable cost items.

(iv) Released to the borrower if the RHS debt is adequately secured.

(5) If a loss occurs when insurance is not in force, the borrower is responsible for making the needed repairs or replacements and ensuring that the insurance is reinstated on the property.

(6) If the borrower is not financially able to make the repairs, RHS may take one of the following actions:

(i) Make a subsequent loan for repairs.

(ii) Subordinate the RHS lien to permit the borrower to obtain funds for needed repairs from another source.

(iii) Permit the borrower to obtain funds secured by a junior lien from another source.

(iv) Make a protective advance to protect the Government's interest.

(v) Accelerate the account and demand payment in full.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 70 FR 6552, Feb. 8, 2005]

### § 3550.111 Appraisals (loans only).

An appraisal is required when the section 504 debt to be secured exceeds \$15,000 or whenever RHS determines that it is necessary to establish the adequacy of the security. RHS may charge an appraisal fee. Appraisals must be made in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices. When other real estate is taken as additional security it will be appraised if it represents a sub-

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stantial portion of the security for the loan.

### § 3550.112 Maximum loan and grant.

(a) *Maximum loan permitted.* The sum of all outstanding section 504 loans to 1 borrower or on 1 dwelling may not exceed \$20,000.

(1) Transferees who have assumed a section 504 loan and wish to obtain a subsequent section 504 loan are limited to the difference between the unpaid principal balance of the debt assumed and \$20,000.

(2) For a secured loan, the total of all debts on the secured property may not exceed the value of the security, except by the amount of any required appraisal and tax monitoring fees, and the contributions to an escrow account for taxes and insurance.

(b) *Maximum loan based upon ability to pay.* The maximum loan is limited to the principal balance that can be supported given the amount the applicant has available, as determined by RHS, to repay a loan at 1 percent interest with a 20-year term.

(c) *Maximum grant.* The lifetime total of the grant assistance to any recipient is \$7,500. No grant can be awarded unless the maximum level of loans, as supported by a budget, have been obtained.

### § 3550.113 Rates and terms (loans only).

(a) *Interest rate.* The interest rate for all section 504 loans will be 1 percent.

(b) *Loan term.* The repayment period for the loan should generally be as short as possible based on the applicant's repayment ability, and may never exceed 20 years; however loans made in combination with grants must have a term of 20 years.

### § 3550.114 Repayment agreement (grants only).

Grant recipients are required to sign a repayment agreement which specifies that the full amount of the grant must be repaid if the property is sold in less than 3 years from the date the grant agreement was signed.

[61 FR 59779, Nov. 22, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 78331, Dec. 24, 2002]